

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-113 (Cancelled).

114. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a tangible computer-readable useable medium having instructions stored thereon ~~storing computer program logic~~, the ~~computer program logic~~ instructions comprising:

first instructions ~~computer program code~~, ~~stored and~~ executable at a user station, for ~~enabling a processor at the user station to select~~ selecting among a plurality of available online services to support an application function, wherein the first ~~computer program code includes~~ instructions form an application programming interface (API) that ~~provides~~ configured to provide a generic client interface ~~capable of~~ for communicating a functional request associated with the application function to any one of the plurality of available online services;

second instructions ~~computer program code~~, ~~stored and~~ executable at the user station, for ~~enabling the processor to direct~~ directing the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and an online service selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third instructions, ~~computer program code stored and~~ executable at the user station, ~~and associated with said application function, for enabling the processor to present the user with different customized~~ presenting a graphical user interfaces for different selected online services in support of said application function; interface, generating the functional request, and communicating the functional request to the online service using the API,

wherein[[,]] portions of the third instructions ~~computer program code~~ are downloaded from the ~~selected~~ online service, and in advance of their execution

wherein the third instructions receive via the API a response to the functional request from the online service in the background, thereby permitting the graphical user interface to continue operation.

115. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for ~~enabling the processor to establish~~ establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service.

116. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising protocol translation instructions ~~program code~~ for ~~enabling the processor to establish~~ establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service.

117. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the online service selector function and the communications function.

118. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising data transport instructions for effectuating ~~program code that enables the processor to effectuate~~ data transfers between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service via the established communication link.

119. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 118, wherein the data transport instructions use ~~code uses~~ an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

120. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 119, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to modify the object manifest.

121. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 120, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a ~~higher-level~~ high-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

122. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 120, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables ~~the user~~ at the user station to modify the object manifest.

123. (Cancelled).

124. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the first instructions are further configured ~~program code enables the processor~~ to present ~~a user with~~ a list of the available online services.

125. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, ~~wherein the user station is configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and further comprises~~ comprising data transport instructions for effectuating ~~program code that enables the processor to effectuate~~ data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the available online services ~~independently-operated data sources via the~~ a non-proprietary network.

126. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 125, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

127. (Cancelled).

128. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising database function instructions ~~program code stored at the user station, for enabling the processor to present a user with~~ presenting a different database function for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

129. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 128, wherein portions of the database function ~~program code~~ instructions are downloaded from ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding online service ~~in advance of their execution~~.

130. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, further comprising general purpose user interface instructions ~~computer program code stored and executable at the user station for enabling the processor to facilitate~~ facilitating the presentation of ~~each of said customized~~ the graphical user interface ~~interfaces~~.

131. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein ~~each of the customized graphical user interface interfaces~~ operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package ~~stored and executable at the user station.~~

132. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the first instructions are computer program code is updateable from a remote source ~~to enable the processor to expand~~ for expanding the number of available online services.

133. (Currently Amended) A user station, comprising a processor and a tangible computer-readable useable medium having instructions stored thereon ~~storing computer program logic~~, the instructions computer program logic comprising:

first instructions computer program code, ~~stored and~~ executable at the user station, for ~~enabling a processor at the user station to select~~ selecting among a plurality of available online services to support an application function, wherein the first computer program code includes an application programming interface (API) ~~that provides~~ configured to provide a generic client interface ~~capable of~~ for communicating a functional request associated with the application function to any one of the available online services;

second instructions computer program code, ~~stored and~~ executable at the user station, for ~~enabling the processor to direct~~ directing the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and an online service selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third instructions computer program code, ~~stored and~~ executable at the user station, ~~and associated with said application function, for enabling the processor to present the user with different customized~~ presenting a graphical user interfaces for different selected online services in support of said application function; interface, generating the functional request, and communicating the functional request to the online service using the API,

wherein[[,]] portions of the third instructions computer program code are downloaded from the selected online service, and in advance of their execution

wherein the third instructions receive via the API a response to the functional request from the online service in the background, thereby permitting the graphical user interface to continue operation.

134. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for ~~enabling the processor to establish~~ establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service.

135. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising protocol translation instructions for establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service.

136. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the online service selector function and the communications function.

137. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising data transport instructions ~~program code~~ for ~~enabling the processor to effectuate~~ effectuating data transfers between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service via the established communication link.

138. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 137, wherein the data transport instructions use ~~program code~~ ~~uses~~ an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

139. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 138, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to modify the object manifest.

140. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 139, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a ~~higher-level~~ high-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

141. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 139, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables ~~the user at~~ the user station to modify the object manifest.

142. (Cancelled).

143. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the first program code ~~enables the processor~~ is further configured to present the user station with a list of the available online services.

144. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, ~~wherein the user station is configured to communicate with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and the software further comprises~~ comprising data transport instructions for effectuating ~~program code that enables the processor to effectuate~~ data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the available online services ~~independently-operated data sources~~ via ~~[[the]]~~ a non-proprietary network.

145. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 144, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

146. (Cancelled).

147. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising database function instructions, ~~program code stored at the user station, for enabling the processor to present a user with~~ presenting a different customized database function for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

148. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 147, wherein portions of the database function instructions ~~program code~~ are downloaded from ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding online service ~~in advance of their execution~~.

149. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, further comprising general purpose user interface instructions ~~computer program code stored and executable at the user station for enabling the processor to facilitate~~ facilitating the presentation of ~~the each of said customized~~ graphical user interface ~~interfaces~~.

150. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein ~~each~~ of the ~~eustomized~~ graphical user ~~interfaces~~ interface operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package ~~stored and executable at the user station~~.

151. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the first instructions are ~~computer program code~~ is updateable from a remote source ~~to enable the processor to expand~~ for expanding the number of available online services.

152. (Previously Presented) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the user station is a personal computer.

153. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a tangible computer-readable useable medium having instructions stored thereon ~~storing computer program logic~~, the ~~computer program logic~~ instructions comprising:

first instructions ~~computer program code~~, ~~stored and~~ executable at a user station, that ~~includes~~ form an application programming interface (API) ~~operable~~ configured to provide a generic client interface for communicating a functional request associated with an application function to any one of a plurality of available online services;

second instructions ~~computer program code~~, ~~stored and~~ executable at the user station, for ~~enabling the processor to direct~~ directing the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and an online service selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third computer program code, ~~stored and~~ executable at the user station, and ~~associated with said application function~~, for ~~enabling the processor to present the user with different customized~~ presenting a graphical user interfaces for ~~different selected online services in support of said application function~~; interface, generating the functional request, and communicating the functional request to the online service using the API,

wherein~~[[,]]~~ portions of the third computer program code are downloaded from the ~~selected online service, and in advance of their execution~~

wherein the third instructions receive via the API a response to the functional request from the online service in the background, thereby permitting the graphical user interface to continue operation.

154. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for ~~enabling the processor to establish~~ establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected online service~~.

155. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising protocol translation instructions ~~program code~~ for ~~enabling the processor to establish~~ establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service.

156. (Cancelled).

157. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising data transport instructions ~~program code that enables the processor to effectuate~~ for effectuating data transfers between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service via the established communication link.

158. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 157, wherein the data transport function uses an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

159. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 158, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to modify the object manifest.

160. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 159, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a ~~higher-level~~ high-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

161. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 159, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that ~~enables the user at~~ the user station to modify the object manifest.

162. (Cancelled).

163. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein the first instructions are further configured ~~program code enables the processor~~ to present ~~a user with~~ a list of the available online services.

164. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, ~~wherein the user station is configured to communicate with a multiplicity of independently operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and further comprises~~

comprising data transport instructions for effectuating ~~program code that enables the processor to effectuate~~ data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the available online services ~~independently-operated data sources~~ via ~~[[the]]~~ a non-proprietary network.

165. (Previously Presented) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 164, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

166. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising database function instructions ~~program code stored at the user station, for enabling the processor to present a~~ presenting the user station with a different customized database for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

167. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 166, wherein portions of the database function instructions ~~computer program code~~ are downloaded from ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding online service in advance of their execution.

168. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, further comprising general purpose user interface instructions ~~computer program code stored and executable at the user station for enabling the processor to facilitate~~ facilitating the presentation of the ~~each of said customized~~ graphical user interface ~~interfaces~~.

169. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein ~~each of the customized~~ graphical user interface ~~interfaces~~ operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package ~~stored and executable at the user station~~.

170. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein the first instructions are ~~computer program code~~ is updateable from a remote source ~~to enable the processor to expand~~ for expanding the number of available online services.

171. (Currently Amended) A user station, comprising a processor and a computer-readable ~~useable~~ medium having instructions stored thereon ~~storing computer program logic, the computer program logic~~ instructions comprising:

first instructions ~~computer program code~~, stored and executable at a user station, that ~~includes~~ form an application programming interface (API) ~~operable-configured~~ to provide a generic client interface for communicating a functional request associated with an application function to any one of a plurality of available online services;

second instructions ~~computer program code~~, stored and executable at the user station, for ~~enabling the processor to direct~~ directing the establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and an online service selected from the plurality of available online services; and

third instructions, ~~computer program code~~ stored and executable at the user station, and associated with said application function, for ~~enabling the processor to present the user with different customized~~ presenting a graphical user interface, generating the functional request, and communicating the functional request to the online service using the API, interfaces for different selected online services in support of said application function;

wherein[[,]] portions of the third instructions ~~computer program code~~ are downloaded from the ~~selected~~ online service, and in advance of their execution

wherein the third instructions receive via the API a response to the functional request from the online service in the background, thereby permitting the graphical user interface to continue operation.

172. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers for ~~enabling the processor to establish~~ establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service.

173. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising protocol translation instructions ~~program code~~ for ~~enabling the processor to establish~~ establishing the communication link between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service.

174. (Cancelled).

175. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising data transport instructions for effectuating ~~program code~~

~~that enables the processor to effectuate~~ data transfers between the user station and the ~~selected~~ online service via the established communication link.

176. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 175, wherein the data transport function uses an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

177. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 176, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to modify the object manifest ~~can be modified~~.

178. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 177, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a ~~higher-level~~ high-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

179. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 177, wherein the API ~~enables the processor~~ is configured to interconnect the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables ~~the user at~~ the user station to modify the object manifest.

180. (Cancelled).

181. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the first instructions are further configured to ~~computer program code~~ ~~enables the processor~~ to present a user with a list of the available online services.

182. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, ~~wherein the user station is configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and further comprises~~ comprising data transport instructions for effectuating ~~computer program code that enables the processor to effectuate~~ data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the available online services ~~independently operated data sources via [[the]] a non-proprietary network~~.

183. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 182, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

184. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising database function instructions ~~functions~~ ~~computer program code stored at the user station~~, for ~~enabling the processor to present a user with~~ presenting a different customized database for each different online service by a corresponding database function.

185. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 184, wherein portions of the database function instructions ~~computer program code~~ are downloaded from ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding online service ~~in advance of their execution~~.

186. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, further comprising general purpose user interface instructions ~~computer program code stored and executable at the user station~~ for ~~enabling the processor to facilitate~~ facilitating the presentation of ~~each of said customized~~ the graphical user interface ~~interfaces~~.

187. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, wherein ~~each of the customized~~ graphical user interface ~~interfaces~~ operates as a customized element of a common user interface software package ~~stored and executable at the user station~~.

188. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the first instructions are ~~computer program code~~ is updatable from a remote source ~~to enable the processor to expand~~ for expanding the number of available online services.

189. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the ~~different customized~~ graphical user interface includes ~~interfaces include~~ at least one element that is effected by ~~the use of~~ instructions that are ~~program logic that is~~ custom to the ~~respective~~ online service.

190. (Currently Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the ~~different customized~~ graphical user interface includes ~~interfaces include~~ at least one ~~elements~~ element that is effected by ~~the use of~~ instructions that are ~~program logic that is~~ custom to the ~~respective~~ online service.

191. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 153, wherein the ~~different-customized~~ graphical user interface includes functions ~~include~~ at least ~~elements~~ one element that is effected by ~~the use of executable code~~ instructions that ~~[[is]]~~ are custom to the ~~respective~~ online service.

192. (Currently Amended) The user station ~~computer program product~~ as set forth in Claim 171, wherein the ~~different-customized~~ graphical user interface includes functions ~~include~~ at least one ~~elements~~ element that is effected by ~~the use of executable code instructions~~ that ~~[[is]]~~ are custom to the ~~respective~~ online service.

193. (New) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 189, wherein portions of the at least one element are downloaded from the online service.

194. (New) The user station as set forth in Claim 190, wherein portions of the at least one element are downloaded from the online service.

195. (New) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 191, wherein portions of the at least one element are downloaded from the online service.

196. (New) The user station as set forth in Claim 192, wherein portions of the at least one element are downloaded from the online service.

197. (New) The computer program product as set forth in Claim 114, wherein the functional request is for updates to information stored at the user station.

198. (New) The computer program product of Claim 197, wherein the third instructions are further configured to integrate the updates to information, received from the online service in response to the functional request, with the information stored at the user station.

199. (New) The computer program product of Claim 114, wherein the third instructions are further configured to present different customized graphical user interfaces for different selected online services.

200. (New) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the functional request is for updates to information stored at the user station.

201. (New) The user station as set forth in Claim 200, wherein the third instructions are further configured to integrate the updates to information, received from the online service in response to the functional request, with the information stored at the user station.

202. (New) The user station as set forth in Claim 133, wherein the third instructions are further configured to present different customized graphical user interfaces for different selected online services.